



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 13, 1994

CC 92-77
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The Honorable Charles S. Stenholm
U.S. House of Representatives
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stenholm:

Thank you for contacting us on behalf of Mr. Doug Whitehead, Corrections Administrator, Wise County Sheriff's Department, regarding the Commission's Billed Party Preference (BPP) proceeding. On May 19, 1994, the Commission adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding. I have enclosed a copy of the Further Notice and press release accompanying it for your information.

The Further Notice sets forth a detailed cost/benefit analysis of BPP. This analysis indicates, based on the available data, that the benefits of BPP to consumers would exceed its costs. The Further Notice sought comment on this analysis and asked interested parties to supplement the record concerning the costs and benefits of BPP. The Further Notice also invited parties to recommend alternatives to BPP that could produce many of the same benefits at a lower cost.

The Further Notice also explicitly sought comment on whether correctional facility telephones should be exempt if BPP is adopted. Specifically, the Further Notice sought additional information on the effectiveness and costs of controlling fraud originating on inmate lines with or without BPP. The Further Notice also sought comment on a proposal to exempt prison telephones from BPP if the operator service provider adheres to rate ceilings for inmate calling services.

BPP would not preclude prison officials from blocking or limiting inmate calls to specific telephone numbers in order to prevent threatening and harassing calls. Moreover, BPP would not affect the ability of prison officials to limit inmates to collect calling or to program telephone equipment at the prison site to block certain numbers.

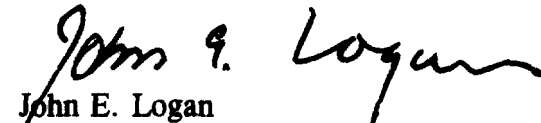
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The Honorable Charles S. Stenholm
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Reply comments were due September 14, 1994. Presently, the Commission is evaluating the comments submitted and considering the implementation of BPP along with other options. I can assure you that the Commission will carefully examine all of the comments submitted in response to the Further Notice, including additional empirical data regarding the costs and benefits of implementing BPP and the impact of BPP on telephone service from correctional facilities.

Thank you for forwarding Mr. Whitehead's correspondence to us and for your interest in this proceeding.

Sincerely yours,


John E. Logan
Deputy Director
Office of Legislative and Inter-governmental Affairs

Enclosures

CHARLES W. STENHOLM
17TH DISTRICT
TEXAS

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMITTEE
ON DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS
AND NUTRITION

DEMOCRATIC DEPUTY WHIP

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Please Respond to:
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1211 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6605
DISTRICT OFFICE:
P.O. BOX 1237
STAMFORD, TX 79083
(918) 773-3635
P.O. BOX 1101
ARLINGTON, TX 76010
(817) 673-7221
53 E. TWOMB AVENUE, 8316
SAN ANGELO, TX 76901
(915) 856-7884

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Lyndon Breyer DATE: Nov 2, 1994
FAX NUMBER: 418-2806 NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 20

___ THE HONORABLE CHARLES W. STENHOLM
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___ INTERN LAMINACK, DAVID

• Our fax number is: 202-225-2234

COMMENTS: The information we discussed follows.
Thank you!!

NOTE: THIS FAX TRANSMISSION CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN CHARLES W. STENHOLM INTENDED ONLY FOR THE ADDRESSEE(S). IF YOU ARE NOT AN INTENDED RECIPIENT, DO NOT DISCLOSE, COPY, OR DISTRIBUTE ANY PART OF THIS TRANSMISSION. INSTEAD, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY AT (202) 225-6605. THANK YOU.



Wise County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Phil Ryan

200 Rook Ramsey Dr.
Decatur, Texas 76234

(800) 242-7990

(817) 627-5971

Fax (817) 3797

dif 8/7 437592

July 26, 1994

US Congressman Charles Stenholm
US House of Representatives
P. O. Box 1237
Stamford, Texas 79553

Re: Billed Party Preference
For 0+ Interlata Calls
Federal Communications Commission
CC Docket 92-77

Dear Congressman Stenholm:

The Wise County Correction Center was surprised to find out about the "Billed Party Preference" issue before the FCC and the possible effect it would have on the Inmate Phone Systems in Correctional Facilities.

We have worked years within the telecommunication industry developing Inmate Telephone Systems that would allow on site control of inmate phone calls to;

1. Block numbers to protect victims from threatening calls.
2. Block Governmental numbers to protect officials from receiving nuisance or repetitious calls.
3. Blocking numbers called to family members who are afraid to place block on their own phone because of retaliation
4. Control fraud through identification message that calls are being made from a correctional facility.
5. Generate a revenue source that helps pay for telephone system and maintenance for inmates, thereby relieving the taxpayers from that additional burden.

If this "Billed Party Preference" issue concerning toll calls will in any way interfere or impede the above situations, then we are totally in opposition of this issue.

**Wise County Sheriff's Department****Sheriff Phil Ryan**200 Rook Ramsey Dr.
Decatur, Texas 76234

(800) 242-7990

(817) 627-5971

Fax (817) 3797

Please consider the consequences, if it could possibly effect the operation of Inmate Phone Systems in Correctional Facilities. We have worked long and hard to arrive at this point in the management of Inmate Phone Systems and we surely do not need any regulatory changes implemented that would tear down what the Corrections profession has worked hard to establish.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the concern of many in Corrections, of how this "Billed Party Preference" issue would effect Correctional Facilities and their Inmate Phone Systems. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doug Whitehead".

Doug Whitehead
Corrections Administrator, WCSO

cc: file